

Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Engineering

When: Sept 24 from 1:00pm to 3pm

Location: The Regina Delta – Umbria Room

Our Panelists



John Desjarlais



Dennis Michaelson



Edward Doolittle

Chair and Moderator



Leanne Bellegarde

“Indigenous Ways of Knowing” is a useful term that recognizes the beautiful complexity and diversity of Indigenous ways of learning and teaching. Many people continue to generalize Indigenous experience and lived realities. The intent of the phrase “Indigenous Ways of Knowing” is to help educate people about the vast variety of knowledge that exists across diverse Indigenous communities. It also signals that, as Indigenous Peoples, we don’t just learn from human interaction and relationships. All elements of creation can teach us, from the plant and animal nations, to the “objects” that many people consider to be inanimate.

So, our Indigenous ways of knowing are incredibly sophisticated and complex. These ways relate to specific ecology in countless locations, so the practices, languages and protocols of one Indigenous community may look very different from another. Yet, Indigenous ways of knowing are commonly steeped in a deep respect for the land, and the necessity of a reciprocal relationship with the land.

Ref: <https://www.queensu.ca/indigenous/ways-knowing/about>

John Desjarlais

APEGS

Executive Director - IRN

Driven by the spirit of Self-Determination, grounded by the values I live by everyday; I strive to be an Indigenous world class leader with integrity and is industrious, innovative, and inclusive.

I have a passion for engagement and utilization of best practice, good governance, and accountability. This includes my work as a senior business leader, professional, entrepreneur, lifelong student, community advocate and the many volunteer opportunities I make time for. My assertiveness and my passion for problem solving and bringing people together has provided me many leadership opportunities. I use my skills and experience to effectively and positively engage all and any, leave a lasting impression, and removing barriers in other's own capacity development. As an Indigenous person, I strive to be a positive role model, build on the wealth of our people, make positive contributions to our shared society, and make myself accessible to those who could benefit from my experience.

<https://www.apegs.ca/presidents-message-4>

Dennis Michaelson

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Western University, London, Ontario

Dennis Michaelson received the Ph.D. degree in electrical and computer engineering from The University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada in 2017, and the B.A.Sc. degree in automation engineering from Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada, in 1993. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of Western Ontario, with research interests in energy systems, embedded computing, and Indigenous engineering education. He previously served as a Postdoctoral Associate and Research Engineer at Western, and prior to that held the position of Vice-President of Engineering with EK3 Technologies, Inc., where he led a team developing secure networked embedded systems for multimedia applications. He is Métis-Cree and a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario, with kinship ties to the Mistawasis Nêhiyawak. He has volunteered with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and IEEE Canada, with a focus on increasing the participation of Indigenous peoples in STEM.

https://www.eng.uwo.ca/electrical/faculty/Michaelson_D/index.html

Edward Doolittle

Associate Professor of Mathematics, First Nations University of Canada and the University of Regina

Dr. Edward Doolittle is Kanyenkehake (Flint Nation = Mohawk) from Six Nations in southern Ontario. He earned his PhD in pure mathematics (partial differential equations) from the University of Toronto in 1997. In 2000-2001 he was a member of Onkwewenna Kentsyohkwa (Our Language Group) studying the Mohawk language full time in immersion in his home community. In 2001, he joined the faculty of First Nations University of Canada, a federated college of the University of Regina, where he is now Associate Professor of Mathematics.

Dr. Doolittle is interested in probability, particularly in relation to partial differential operators. He is also interested in Indigenous mathematics and related concepts like Indigenizing mathematics, traditional mathematics, and ethnomathematics, and the educational possibilities afforded by those different views of mathematics. He is the recipient of a Governor General's Academic Medal (Gold) and an Honorable Mention in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition.

<https://www.fnuniv.ca/academic/faculty/dr-edward-doolittle/>

Leanne M. Bellegarde

Leanne hails from Treaty 4 territory in the south of Saskatchewan but grew up in the northern community of Meadow Lake. She completed her law degree at the University of Saskatchewan in 1991 and was admitted to the Law Society of Saskatchewan in 1993 after completing her articles in the Saskatoon offices of MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman.

Leanne's professional work experience includes, the Government of Canada on the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement, as a Solicitor with the City of Saskatoon; corporate lawyer with SaskTel in their head office in Regina; the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations; in her own successful private law practice on the Muskeg Lake First Nation Urban Reserve in Saskatoon; with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority as the Senior Vice President, Corporate and Legal Affairs; and, as the Director of Aboriginal Initiatives at the N. Murray Edwards School of Business (formerly the College of Commerce) at the University of Saskatchewan, setting strategic direction and leadership for First Nations and Métis students in business programs 5 years.

<https://fhqdev.com/profiles/leanne-m-bellegarde/>

For further information contact: Raman.Paranjape@uregina.ca